
B R E S L A W's
LAST LEGACY;

OR,

The Magical Companion, &c.

L

A

F

T

1

M

A

72c
B R E S L A W's
LAST LEGACY;

O R,
The Magical Companion : *1041. c. 1.*
2

CONTAINING

**All that is Curious, Pleasing, Enter-
taining, and Comical;**

SELECTED

**From the most celebrated Masters of Deception ;
As well with SLIGHT of HAND,
As with MATHEMATICAL INVENTIONS.**

Wherein is displayed,

**The Mode and Manner of deceiving the Eye,
as practised by those celebrated Masters of
Mirthful Deceptions.**

**Including the various Exhibitions of those wonderful Artists,
BRESLAW, SIEUR COMUS, JONAS, &c.**

ALSO THE

**Interpretation of Dreams, Signification of Moles,
Palmistry, &c. with a Selection of Jest, Riddles,
Epigrams, and Bon Mots.**

The Whole to form

**A real BOOK of KNOWLEDGE in the
Art of CONJURATION.**

In which is displayed, the Way to make the

A I R B A L L O O N

A N D

INFLAMMABLE AIR.

L O N D O N : Printed for T. MOORE,
No. 33, Pater-noster-Row. 1784.

14

THE NEW YORK

PUBLIC LIBRARY

ASTOR LENOX TILDEN FOUNDATION

1891

NEW YORK

1891

NEW YORK

NEW YORK

NEW YORK

NEW YORK

NEW YORK

NEW YORK

NEW YORK

NEW YORK

NEW YORK

NEW YORK

NEW YORK

NEW YORK

NEW YORK

NEW YORK

NEW YORK

NEW YORK

S

L

c

in

w

n

t

a

f

DEDICATION.

T O

SIR ASHTON LEVER, Knt.

S I R,

I HOPE you will pardon this public address ; your well known character as a man of virtue, your indefatigable industry in collecting whatever is rare and curious, in art or nature, has fixed your name high with the dellitanti of the whole world.

As a person of such a turn of mind and extraordinary abilities, must be supposed to possess a regard for every
A 3 thing

thing that is curious and entertaining; the Editor of this work has presumed to lay his labours at your door, with some sort of confidence, that you will treat it with kindness.

Books of this kind, must be acknowledged, are too generally looked upon as calculated merely for the lower class of people; to amuse the ignorant, to make children laugh, with the tricks of Hocus Pocus and Legerdemain: but, Sir, as you are well convinced that many useful inventions in the mathematics have owed their rise to some of these fanciful exhibitions, it is not doubted but you will look upon this selection in a better light.

To amuse and instruct is no easy task; yet you have performed it, difficult as it is, with great success; your Museum will be an everlasting pyramid

pyramid to your honour ; and your name will be respectable with all real connoisseurs, to the remotest period of time.

Flattery I despise, as much as I know a man of your understanding must ; I only beg the honour of your acceptance of this trifle, to peruse it with candour, and believe that I am,

SIR,

Your profound admirer,

and humble servant,

The EDITOR.

PRE-

P R E F A C E.

AS the world is too apt to judge from appearances, and be prejudiced at first sight, so from the title of a book they generally judge of its contents; and as their taste for knowledge is applaud or condemn, perhaps without examining the contents, those of a more serious cast will give no countenance to this book, merely from what they fancy it must contain, without taking the trouble to read it; to such prejudiced persons
this

this preface perhaps may be of service, to correct their opinions and put them right in regard to its merits. It does, by no means, recommend or encourage vice and idleness; its intention is, to amuse and instruct as innocent diversions; relieve, and give new vigour to the mind; they must surely be allowable by the most rigid, unless their ideas are too sublime for this lower world. Besides, the knowledge which this book conveys, will wipe many ill-grounded notions which ignorant people have imbibed. Some imagine that many deceptions cannot be performed without the assistance of the gentleman of the cloven foot, long since distinguished by the appellation of Old Nick, from whence the original of this amusing science,

science gained the name of the Black Art. Indeed, some ages back, when learning was confined to a few, self-interested and designing persons pretended to enchantment, and to hold intelligence with supernatural beings, and by their skill in chemistry and mathematics, so worked upon the senses, that many were brought to believe in conjuration.

Every thing in this book has its rise in nature, consequently is by no means criminal, therefore may be recommended, rather than be exploded. Besides, it may be a guide to the artless not to be practised on by those who are capable of these deceptions; for, knowing how they may be done, they will not be liable to be imposed on. To perform
flight

slight of hand well, is a very difficult task, and what, though many pretend to, few are excellent in ; it requires a good presence, a quick eye, a nimble hand, and no small share of volubility ; for not a little depends on amusing the attention with some strange story or hard words while the tricks are performing ; therefore any one with a little practice, may, in a short time, amuse himself and friends by those agreeable, harmless, and fanciful diversions.

This book will give you a short and entertaining account of the planets, with their supposed influence on the world, with their names as distinguished by astronomers in the celestial globe. The other parts will afford sufficient matter for mirth and

and speculation, so that the whole will form a complete companion for a leisure hour; and, I doubt not, will be acceptable both in town and country.

BRESLAW

B R E S L A W ' s
 L A S T L E G A C Y, &c.

C H A P. I.

*The AIR BALLOON described, and how
 to make one, as has lately been done
 in France and England.*

THE AIR BALLOON, which has
 been lately so much the topic
 of conversation, and so much asto-
 nished the gaping multitude, has no-
 thing so very wonderful in it: the
 idea of it at first, was, no doubt, taken
 from children blowing bladders with
 soap-suds and a tobacco-pipe; these
 bubbles will ascend till some rude
 touch breaks their texture. The Air
 Balloon is little more; the composi-
 B tion

tion of which is thus made, according to the size you intend your Balloon to be: take taffity, and sew it into the form intended, leaving a small orifice for the admission of the inflammable air; the taffity and all the seams must be strongly gummed several times over, to keep it from admitting the common air, or letting its contents evaporate; when this machine is made, you must fill it with inflammable air, which is made as follows.

To make Inflammable Air.

TAKE a glass bottle or vessel, whatever size you may want, put into it a quantity of oil of vitriol, with some iron filings or old nails; then pour on it some clear water, and it will soon begin to ferment; and will, if not prevented by stopping it close, ascend in smoke to a great height.— To convey this air into the Balloon, may be done with a glass tube or crane, which must be well secured at each end, and as the fermentation en-

creases,

creases, the Balloon will fill; and when you have got a sufficiency of the air, you must draw the neck tight with a string fixed on purpose: before you begin to insert the inflammable air, make the part again secure with gum, or some other glutinous composition; and after all, you may gild it if you please. This, when unconfined, will float in the air for a long time, and continually do so until the inflammable air finds a vent, when it will gradually descend: this invention is very curious, but of no singular utility further than to amuse; for if one could be made large enough to build a room in, none, surely, in their senses, would think of venturing up with it for the sake of observations. The Air Balloon, lately exhibited by Mr. Baginni, went to a surprising height, to the astonishment of some thousand spectators; but they may be made as small as you please, and will float about in a room, and serve as a pleasant amusement.

Being now on the subject of Air Balloons, it may not be deemed much

out of the road to go a little further, and give some account of the stars in this chapter, as they are described by the learned astronomers; and as they are in general made use of by those who set up to tell fortunes, as it is commonly believed that the planets have some influence over human bodies, it is necessary to shew what their ascendancies are over them, according to what planet ruled at their birth: in order to this, I shall first place the names of the Twelve Signs in the Zodiac, viz.

One	—	<i>Aries</i>
Two	—	<i>Taurus</i>
Three	—	<i>Gemini</i>
Four	—	<i>Cancer</i>
Five	—	<i>Leo</i>
Six	—	<i>Virgo</i>
Seven	—	<i>Libra</i>
Eight	—	<i>Scorpio</i>
Nine	—	<i>Sagittarius</i>
Ten	—	<i>Capricorn</i>
Eleven	—	<i>Aquarius</i>
Twelve	—	<i>Pisces</i>

These signs are represented in the celestial globe by the following figures:

Aries,

<i>Aries,</i>	The Ram
<i>Taurus,</i>	The Bull
<i>Gemini,</i>	The Twins
<i>Cancer,</i>	The Crab
<i>Leo,</i>	The Lion
<i>Virgo,</i>	The Virgin
<i>Libra,</i>	The Scales
<i>Scorpio,</i>	The Scorpion
<i>Sagittarius,</i>	The Archer
<i>Capricorn,</i>	The Sea Goat
<i>Aquarius,</i>	The Water Pot
<i>Pisces,</i>	The Fisher

These signs are placed round the Zodiac in form of a girdle; but I will describe more fully the order in which they stand, and how they follow each other.

The Ram, the Bull, the Heav'nly Twins,
 And next the Crab and Lion shines;
 The Virgin, and the Scales,
 The Scorpion, Archer, and Sea Goat,
 The Man that holds the Water Pot,
 And Fish with glitt'ring Tails.

Having thus given a description of the signs, I shall mention the planets which

which govern the seven days of the week.

First,	The <i>Sun</i>
Second,	The <i>Moon</i>
Third,	<i>Mars</i>
Fourth,	<i>Mercury</i>
Fifth,	<i>Jupiter</i>
Sixth,	<i>Venus</i>
Seventh,	<i>Saturn</i>

The planets govern as follows :

The <i>Sun</i> ,	Sunday
The <i>Moon</i> ,	Monday
<i>Mars</i> ,	Tuesday
<i>Mercury</i> ,	Wednesday
<i>Jupiter</i> ,	Thursday
<i>Venus</i> ,	Friday
<i>Saturn</i> ,	Saturday

These govern the days, and the signs govern the months.

<i>Aries</i> ,	March
<i>Taurus</i> ,	April
<i>Gemini</i> ,	May
<i>Cancer</i> ,	June
<i>Leo</i> ,	July
<i>Virgo</i> ,	August

Libra,

<i>Libra,</i>	September
<i>Scorpio,</i>	October
<i>Sagittarius,</i>	November
<i>Capricorn,</i>	December
<i>Aquarius,</i>	January
<i>Pisces,</i>	February

And now it will not be amiss to give some account of the nature and disposition of such persons who are born under the above signs.

Those who are born under *Aries*, that is in March, will be very active, and of a strong memory; fond of going up hills, and high places; wantonly inclined, and very merry, and not a little addicted to passion; if born of a Tuesday, will be great fighters, as that day is governed by *Mars*.

Those who are born under *Taurus*, that is in April, will be strong in the head; have commonly thick necks and broad shoulders; are great eaters; are liable to receive hurts in their heads and legs, and are seldom long lived.

Those

Those born under *Gemini*, that is May, are mostly slender and delicate, subject to sickness, are of a mild disposition, and capable of true love and sincere friendship; but seldom live to be old: if born of a Sunday it promises they will be rich.

Those who are born under *Cancer*, that is June, are inclined to be short and corpulent, have a jumping gait when they walk, and are fond of the water, are subject to eruptions and chronic disorders; are generally very vicious in love.

Those born under *Leo*, that is July, will be bold and enterprizing; likely to receive honours; are of a noble and generous disposition; have a great share of understanding, and are particularly happy in their friends.

Those who are born under *Virgo*, that is August, are of a sly and artful disposition; have little share of sense or address, and generally live single.

Those who are born under *Scorpio*, that is October, are spiteful and passionate, have good sense, but are deceitful in friendship; are much given

to

to women, but are seldom happy in their connections; are like to have many children; impose on others; and often get imposed on themselves; and very impatient under affliction.

Those who are born under *Sagittarius*, that is November, will be meek, wise and discreet; rather grave than gay, fond of retirement; and sincere in love and friendship; often marry very young, have but few children; meet with many crosses in life; but commonly end their days in happiness.

Those born under *Capricorn*, that is December, will be great travellers, and go by sea to distant countries, be subject to many dangers, but will surmount them, and become wealthy and eminent.

Those born under *Aquarius*, that is January, are usually of a sweet and affable temper, and will be happy in great possessions; are kind to their friends; good-natured, agreeable, handsome, and very liberal in their favours: blest in their loves, have many children, and live to a great age.

Those

Those under *Pisces*, that is February, will get wealth by trade, and merchandize abroad; are subject to cold disorders, and are of a phlegmatic constitution; live happy in the married state, and have many children, generally sons, who succeed to their father's wealth and possessions.

Thus much for prognostication of the signs and planets; by which any one may guess at the dispositions and tempers they pay the court to, if they can learn the month in which the party was born; but as this book is to consist of variety, I shall say no more on this subject, but proceed to other matters, curious and entertaining.

C H A P. II.

Many clever Tricks, and pleasant Fancies, in the Art of Legerdemain.

To cause Mirth, and make Sport with Quick-silver.

THIS volatile mineral will afford many curious experiments, none of which are more pleasing than the following: boil an egg, and while it is hot make a small hole at one end, then put in a little quick-silver, seal up the hole with sealing-wax, and then leave it on a table, or any where else, it will not cease to fly about while there is any warmth in it, or till it is broke all to pieces.

Another

Another Trick with Quick-silver.

AN old woman on a Sunday was making dumplings, when two of her grandsons came to see her, and being merrily inclined, while her back was turned, conveyed some quick-silver into the dough, and then took their leave. The old woman left the cooking to the care of her granddaughter, and went herself to church, charging her to be careful, and skim the pot, in which was to be boiled the dumplings and a leg of mutton; the girl was very careful to watch when the pot boiled, when taking off the cover, out jumped a dumpling, which she instantly put in again, when out flew another, and another after that, which so terrified the girl, that she ran with all speed to the church: the old woman seeing her come in, held up her hand, shook her head, winked at her, as much as to say, begone; at last the girl cried out, before all the congregation, “All
“ your

“ your nodding and winking does not
 “ signify, for the leg of mutton has
 “ beat the dumplings out of the
 “ pot.” This caused much laugh-
 ing; and her two grandsons, being
 then on their knees, saw plainly the
 pleasing effect of their experiment:
 but to play tricks with quick-silver
 should be done with great care, as it
 is very dangerous.

*To make a Six-pence seem to fall
 through a Table.*

TO perform this trick you must
 have a handkerchief with a counter,
 the same size as a six-pence, sewed in
 one corner of it; take your handker-
 chief out of your pocket, and ask one
 of the company to lend you six-pence,
 which you must seem carefully to
 wrap up in the midst of the handker-
 chief; but, at the same time, keep
 the six-pence in the palm of your
 hand, and in its stead, wrap the cor-
 ner that is sewed into the middle of
 the handkerchief, and bid them feel,

C

and

and they will believe the six-pence is there which they had lent you ; then lay it under a hat upon the table, take a glass or tea-cup in that hand the six-pence is in, and hold under the table ; and, to carry on the deception, knock upon the table three times, making use of such words as “ Vad, “ come quickly, Presto ;” at the same time, letting the six-pence drop from your hand into the glass ; taking up the handkerchief and shaking it, take care to hold it by the corner the counter is in : this trick, however easy to perform, seems strange, if done without bungling.

The Visible Invisible.

VARIOUS are the tricks and fancies to amuse and surprise made use of by the nimble-fingered gentry, who exhibit for a livelihood, and gain a comfortable subsistence from their gaping audiences.

And their wonder encreases as their senses are imposed upon : in fact, they

they themselves (though they do not know it) assist the deceit; for, being more attentive to the trick than to the performer of it, they cannot see or comprehend how it is done; when, were they acquainted with the manner, a little practice would make them capable of doing the same.

But as the world will be amused by some means or other, according to their different dispositions, so those who practice these diversions are in the right to vary their scenes as much as possible, and as often as possible introduce something new. Novelty has a charm the most attractive imaginable; yet they should be careful, in these attempts, not to promise too much, and well consider what they have to offer will bear the test of scrutiny, lest they become the scoff and ridicule of their auditors, instead of their admiration.

A certain gentleman, well known for his talents in the deceptive arts, a few years back, brought together a great number of genteel people at the Lebeck's Head, in the Strand.

His bills set forth a wonderful new discovery, which was to surprize and astonish all the beholders ; and he called it the Visible Invisible : his apparatus was a large looking-glass, on which was displayed a variety of devices, and some very pretty verses, descriptive and applicable to his design : this was handed round the company, who having read it very plainly, he took his handkerchief and wiped it all out, and the glass appeared without the least mark whatever ; but on his desiring any one to breath upon it, the writing and characters became as visible as ever.

This was really astonishing to many present ; but some gentlemen, being well acquainted with the manner it was done, and knowing it was too trifling to pay half-a-crown for so simple a thing, declared against the imposition, and undeceived the audience, by shewing the deception was nothing more than French chalk ; this set the whole place in an uproar, and vengeance was declared against the performer, who, with the utmost pre-

precipitation, was endeavouring to make his escape out of the window to avoid their fury; but being prevented, he was brought back to the audience, where, having asked pardon on his knees, and returning the money, he afterwards told them, and told them truly, if he had got off with the money, he should have been *invisible*; but, as it was, he was *visible*; after breaking his glass, he was suffered to depart.

The French chalk is a compound of a greasy but extraordinary nature, and has been often made use of to draw portraits upon looking-glasses, when the picture may be visible or invisible, as the possessor thinks proper, only by breathing or wiping of it, and it will continue so for many months.

Mr. Conjuror declared he gave five guineas for the secret, and it must be confessed he bought the bargain.

To fasten a Ring or a Six-pence at the End of a Piece of common Thread, and after burning the Thread, to leave the Ring hanging at the End of the Thread.

THERE are many ways to deceive the eye, which are not easily comprehended; and, till they come to be explained, cannot be accounted for.

More deceptions are performed at such a distance from the audience, as they cannot (however quick-sighted) penetrate into the mystery; and when they are brought so near as to be examined, even by the touch, and yet to remain in the dark, the wonder becomes greater. The trick I am going to relate, is one of the last mentioned sort, and puzzled many of the most learned in those matters for several years.

A Palatine girl used to make a comfortable livelihood, and even supported her parents, by going from public-house

house to public-house, and exhibiting the following device :

She tied a ring or six-pence to the end of a piece of thread, which was suspended from a pin, placed for that purpose, and let any one set fire to the thread, which, to all appearances, was burnt to ashes, and yet the ring remained hanging to the end of it. This was eagerly sought after by all the great masters in the legerdemain art, but without success ; the moment they made the experiment, and the thread was burnt, the ring fell to the ground ; they were confounded ; and the more they tried the more they were at a loss.

Many offered to purchase the secret from the girl, but she remained inflexible : she rightly considered that a trifling sum for the present would deprive her of her future livelihood ; but fate, at last, contrived against her fortune. She was taken ill, and being destitute of even the common necessities of life, was prevailed upon to communicate the whole of her art to the celebrated Mr. *Jonas*, who generously

roually rewarded her with half a guinea.

This trick, which really is surprising, is done by the most simple means imaginable; all the art lies in preparing the thread, which is done as follows: she used to soak the thread in salt and water for some time, and then dry it before the fire; the saline particles adhering to the thread, though imperceptible, immediately caught the flame of the candle, and burnt like so much tow, yet, though it seemed to burn, it really preserved the body of the thread, which remained firm and undiminished; yet when you touched it, it became pulverised, and crumbled to ashes: thus from the most simple things, the most astonishing performances are made. It is left to those most conversant in chymistry, to investigate the nature of salt, and shew why it should act in such a manner as before described. Perhaps, if the curious were to search with care, many more extraordinary experiments might be made, not only to amuse the sight, but to instruct and

im-

improve the mind, and become an universal benefit to the world in general.

The learned little Swan, one of Mr. BRESLAW's Grand Deceptions.

DECEPTIONS in the mathematics are generally the most surprising, and strike the fancy in an astonishing manner; these, though most of them are commonly known, never fail to secure applause.

Mr. Breslaw has been uncommonly successful in this way, whether he gained his knowledge by dint of application, and study, an acquaintance with science, or whether he has collected them from different masters in the same art, is not for me to determine; it is sufficient to say, that his skill has met with reward, as well as praise.—Not that such things are of any real service to the community, or are to be recommended as necessary qualifications to complete an education, yet there can be no manner of harm.

harm in being acquainted with them. Real science lift its eye to nobler pursuits, yet it may not be amiss to relax sometime with curious trifles. This fancy I am going to relate, is one of the principal of the kind.—A large marble or china bowl is painted with—inside the rim, with the letters contained in the Alphabet.—A small artificial swan is set to swim in the centre of the water it contains — the performer bids any one call for a letter, — upon naming the letter, the swan quits its station in the middle, and goes directly to the letter mentioned;—or, if it is desired, will pick out the whole of what composes your name.—This, no doubt, is looked upon with astonishment! to think that a thing inanimate, made of a bit of painted cork, should be capable of such things.

But this amazement will vanish, when it is known, that a small steel or iron pin is fixed within side the swan, and that the performer has a magnet in his pocket, by which means, as he moves round the table, it attracts the

swan

swan to every letter where it is wanted to stop at, till it forms the name of whatever is required.

The nature of the magnet being known, many curious experiments have been made with it, a knife or any other piece of iron touched with the load-stone, will bring up nails or needles out of a pail of water, or by rubbing round the out side on the bottom of a pewter plate, will cause needles, or any thing of iron or steel, thing to dance, and move about just as you direct it on the out-side.—This performer, secure as he thought himself in this device, was a little non-plushed one evening in the Haymarket.—The late Sir Francis Blake Delaval, going to see his exhibition, took a magnet in his pocket, and facing Mr. Breslaw on the opposite side the table, the swan between the two attractive instruments became fixed in the middle; the artist perceiving he could not perform as usual, exclaimed there was somebody in the room was in the secret, and who

who counteracted his intention. Sir Francis smiled, shewed his magnet, and the trick became no longer wonderful, and the audience were no longer amazed at his abilities ; so that he was obliged to seek for fresh matter to supply the place of his little sygnet.

Strange stories are related of the virtues and powers of the load-stone, one of which I shall relate for its singularity.

A gentleman travelling in foreign parts, happened to be benighted, far from any place of accommodation ; to avoid the dreariness of the night, in a strange place, he thought it adviseable to seek for some shelter, and having discovered a cave, he dismounted his horse, whom he fastened by the bridle on the outside of the cave, and then went in and laid himself down in his cloaths, and being much fatigued fell fast a-sleep, nor did he awake till the day-light appeared, when to his great astonishment he found himself suspended by the heels from the roof of

the

the
free
situ
his
to
the
ceiv
owi
of a
steel
man
hang
late,
is ir
Mec
seem
big
mira

To t
m
it

T
ings
great
letter

the cave. He made many efforts to free himself from so disagreeable a situation, when at length he shuffled his legs out of his boots, and came to the ground almost stunned with the fall; when looking up, he perceived the cause of this disaster was owing to the cave being formed out of a rock of loadstone, and he having steel spurs on, was attracted up in the manner related; some say the boots are hanging there yet; others seriously relate, that the coffin of Mahomet, which is iron, is suspended in the temple of Mecca between two loadstones, and seems to hang only in air, which the bigotted musselmen look upon as a miracle.

To take a Bird out of a Cage, and make it appear as dead, or to roll it about as you please.

THOSE of moderate understandings are easiest to be deceived, as the great Lord Chesterfield observes in his letters to his son, "mankind are ea-

D

" fier

“ fier deceived than undeceived :” and if it was not so, half the jugglers would want employment, and the multitude would not croud so often to see their wonders ! wonders ! and wonders ! as performed, and puffed away by that great philosopher Katterfelto, and his black cat, and others of the same class ; but as those who have money, are willing to accommodate those who have none, others have art enough to conjure it out of their pockets ; the world will be always supplied with some of both sorts, and it is no matter how, so that money does but circulate ; and tricks of the most simple kind will often attract the notice of the croud, who throw away their pences, shillings, and half-crowns, for the benefit of those who want.

This trick is one of that sort which wants no great skill in performing, yet has gained no little share of applause both in town and country.

Take any bird out of a cage, and lay it on the table, then take a small feather, and wave over its eyes, and it will immediately appear as dead, but
by

by taking the feather away it will revive again; let it lay hold of the stem part of the feather with its feet, and it will twist and turn about like a parrot; you may likewise roll it about on the table just as you please: that the feather is the cause of all this strange appearance is without doubt, but why it should be so, is a secret which will not be discovered till we can understand the bird language, which has been lost ever since Adam was expelled the garden of Eden. To say more on these subjects would be unnecessary, and only tire the reader's patience; these specimens will be sufficient to instruct him, that all performances of this kind are inventions carried on by flight and deception; that the exhibitors are no more conjurers than other folks, only thro' practice; and that any one might soon be capable of the same, would they bestow their time and attention on things of so little value.

C H A P. III.

Containing a Variety of other curious Tricks and Fancies, by calculation, and other Means.

How, on delivering a Ring to a Number of Persons, to find which Person has got it, which Hand it is on, which Finger, and which Joint.

THOUGH witchcraft, witches, and wizards, and those tawney sibyls, or gipsy gangs, are less numerous than in former days, and almost totally exploded by a late act of parliament; yet there are a great many of the sensible part of the world, that firmly hold the doctrine of magic, and think that an old woman, with a leather-looking aspect, thin jaws, and a quantity of hair upon her chin, can mount a broom-stick, and fly to sweep the cobwebs off the moon; or, that others can creep in at a key-hole, and carry a chest of drawers out the same way,

way, or transform themselves into a black cat, a crooked horned cow, a dark lantern, or a crooked six-pence, to such as will not be undeceived by the light of reason, I shall give full liberty to remain in the darkness of ignorance.— The following contrivance, will by many be looked on no doubt as not to be done, but by the assistance of magic art; that is, to give a ring among a number of people, without knowing to which, and yet to tell which person has got the ring, on which hand, finger, and joint. The company must sit down on a row, then beginning at one end of the company, call one of them the first, another the second, and next the third, and so on; also call the right hand the first, the left hand the second, and so forth, and so of the joints of each finger; then deliver the ring, and leave them to conceal it among themselves.

Then, to find which has the ring, upon which hand, which finger, and which joint, bid them double the first man's number, and add to it five,

and multiply the sum by five, and to the product add ten; and the next man's number thought upon; then let them multiply the sum by ten, and add to the product the next man's number, and so proceed; then enquire the last sum, and if there were but two numbers thought upon, subtract three hundred and fifty therefrom; if four, three thousand five hundred, &c. for the numbers representing the person, the hand, the finger, and the joint, may be taken for four numbers thought upon.

E X A M P L E.

Suppose the fourth person has the ring on his left hand, and on the third joint of that finger, bid them double the number of the person, it makes

To which add five it makes	8
This multiplied by five makes	13
To which add ten it makes	65
And two added for the left hand	75
Which multiplied by ten makes	77
To which adding five, for the fingers makes	770
This multiplied by ten makes	775
	7750
	To

To

To

From

And

W

son

hand,

joint.

No

ways

add t

be a

were

Th

determ

yet it

jects

mory,

the n

ledge,

servic

chant

ic.

To which three added for the
joints makes 7753

To which cause them to add
fourteen (or any number
you please *to conceal it*)
makes 7767

From which subtract 3514

And there remains 4253

Which shews that the fourth per-
son has the ring upon the second
hand, the fourth finger, and the third
joint.

Note, that 3500 is the number al-
ways to be subtracted, only you must
add thereto, as much as you cause to
be added to the last sum, which
were fourteen.

Thus this mighty magical affair is
determined by figures and calculation ;
yet it must be owned, that such sub-
jects are of use, to exercise the me-
mory, and make you perfect in one of
the most useful branches of know-
ledge, as it is of the most distinguished
service in all professions; the mer-
chant, the tradesman, and the mecha-
nic.

How

*How to rub out Twenty Chalks at
five Times, rubbing out every Time
an odd one.*

TRICKS of this kind are more generally the diversion of low mechanics, who, having studied what is trifling, more than what is useful, fancy themselves conjurers, and not a little proud, often affront and insult those of superior knowledge, always ready to lay wagers, when in their cups, offer five to one, ten to one, or any odds that comes uppermost, that none can do the like but themselves; yet sometimes these cunning men find themselves at a loss, when they meet with a person who is equally knowing, who makes their pockets pay for their boasting. From these sort of wagers, arise quarrels, for if one is not equal to another in point of calculation, he thinks he may in point of manhood; a challenge is given and accepted, and the combatants, fierce as bull-dogs, begin throwing their athletic arms at each other,

other, the stones are ramm'd deeper with their falls, the noisy attendants make confusion, ashamed with their vociferous clamouring. " Well struck Dick, that was a nice one Tom, at him again, under his ribs, darken his day-lights, mind your points, find out his bread-basket, tip him Slack's favourite, give him a cross-buttock, and come Ben-bosse over his jaw-bone. Huzza, huzza, huzza?" then the valliant heroes, encouraged by their friends the rabble, bruise one another's flesh, and at last, the victor perhaps gains for his triumph, a black eye, bloody nose, and dislocated jaw; and all his comfort is, that his antagonist has the same sort of honour doubled. After all this, a few tankards of porter make them friends; but their wives and families are the greatest sufferers, that are at home pining in rags and want, while their husbands are losing their time and abusing themselves.

The following trick is one of those most in practice among them.

To do this trick you must make
twenty

twenty chalks or long strokes upon a board, as in the margin:

Then begin and count back-	1—
wards as 20, 19, 18, 17, rub	2—
out these four, then proceed	3—
saying 16, 15, 14, 13, rub out	4—
these four, and begin again, 12,	5—
11, 10, 9, and rub out these,	6—
and proceed again 8, 7, 6, 5,	7—
and rub out these, and lastly	8—
say, 4, 3, 2, 1; when these four	9—
are rubbed out, the whole	10—
twenty are rubbed out at five	11—
times, and every time an odd	12—
one, that is, the 17th, 13th	13—
the 9th, 5th and 1st.	14—

This is a trick which, if once seen, may be easily retained; and the only puzzle at first, is it not occurring immediately to the mind, to begin to rub them out backwards. It is as simple as any thing possibly can be, and might do very well when people are sociable and good-humoured together; but when folks are flushed with liquor, and fractious by nature, I advise all those who love peace and quietness, not

to be
not d
bring
ces m
prefa

A Pe
Sil
Go

TF
impl
pretty
and a
young
merry
Th
malic
rious
desce
mus.

to be curious to know what they cannot directly comprehend, as one word brings on another, and the consequences may be what is displayed in the preface to this trick.

A Person holding Gold in one Hand and Silver in the other, to find which the Gold is in and which the Silver.

TRICKS of this kind, though very simple, are really amusing; they are pretty puzzlers to entertain the mind, and as such may be recommended to young people who are inclined to be merry without design to offend.

That wit or ingenuity, which has malice, or envy, for its object, is a spurious offspring, and not the genuine descendant of the sportive god, Momus.

To

To tell if a Person holds Gold in one Hand and Silver in the other, which Hand the Gold is in, and which the Silver is in.

BID him reckon four for the gold, and three for the silver, or any other number, so that one be odd, and the other even ; then let him triple that which is in the right hand, and double that in the left, and let him add these two products together; then ask him if it be even or odd; for if it be even, then the gold will be in the right hand; but if odd, the gold is in the left hand.

Such tricks as these are harmless, and may be practised, to pass away time on a tedious evening, without the parties being the least culpable; for which reason it is recommended, to the youthful and innocent, as a pleasant recreation.

*To find the Number of Points cast on
Three Dice.*

A quaker observed to the great F——e, when he asked him for the loan of a few thousands, to prevent his bank from failing in such a critical period.—The quaker, with an archness peculiar to his brethren, replied, “ Friend, I have heard “ that many a man may be ruined by “ two dice, but I am determined that “ *Fourdice* shall never ruin me.”

DICE are the more immediate companions of sharpers, and gamblers, who, from a long acquaintance with them, know to a certainty what points they can throw.

To find the number of points cast on three dice ; let any one cast three dice ; then bid him add together the points which are uppermost ; then set one of the dice aside, and to the former, add the points at the bottom of the other two dice ; then bid him throw these two dice, and mark

E

how

how many points appear at the top, which add to the former sum, then let him set one of those dice aside, and mark the points which are under the other dice, and add it to the former sum; lastly, let him throw that other dice, and whatever appears on the top of it, add to the former sum, and let the dice remain.—This done, come to the table, and note what points appear upon the three dice, which add privately together, and add to it twenty-one, and you will find the sum to be equal to the sum which the parties privately had made of all the other operations.

Thus by calculations many things, almost incredible to think, may be done; yet such alluring things are dice, as well as cards, that their nature and use are dangerous to explain to young minds; but as this may be of service to those who would be competent in all the branches of arithmetic, it can be of no hurt.

To find the Points cast upon Two Dice.

AS I have given one specimen in regard to dice, another will not be thought too much, especially as the remarks made on the good and bad use of them, may be a warning not to convert a simple pastime into a vicious crime ; for certain, it is more a crime than folly, for any person to stake his fortune, or estate, upon the chance of what may be uppermost on the face of two or three pieces of spotted ivory ; but as admonition is vain, to those who will not hear, and of no use to those who cannot understand, any thing farther on that head would be useless ; therefore shall proceed to the second subject.

To find the points cast upon two dice : first, let any one cast both the dice, and then mark how many points appear at the top, then let him take up one of them, no matter which, and see what number is at the bottom, and add altogether ; then let him cast

the dice again, and add the points cast, to the former sum : let the dice stand, bring seven with you, and then add the points which appear at the top of the dice, and you will find so many were cast in the whole.

Simple as this appears to be, there are many not able to comprehend it; and, therefore, I advise them not to meddle with dice at all; as every one's head is not alike for arithmetical calculations; it requires a strong memory; whereas, in works of fancy, the ideas are continually fluctuating, and Mr. Pope, says,

“ Where beams of warm imagination play,

“ The memory's soft faculty melts away.”

*To make a Person tired, or sweat, at
carrying a small Stick out of a Room.*

MOST amusements become more agreeable as they appear more insignificant at the first, and become more laughable in the end; give a stick into the hands of any person, suppose not
thicker

thicker than a pea in circumference, or three inches in length, and tell him you will lay any wager, that he shall not carry it out of the room a foot from the door without sweating, being tired, or complaining that his back aches ; this the person (not knowing your intention) no doubt will laugh at, and readily accept the bet: as soon as you have made the stake *sure*, take a knife, and cut off a little bit, so small you can hardly see it, and bid him carry that at first, and then give him another ; and if he thinks proper to abide by the wager, you may, by this means, make him go some thousands of times ; but sooner than proceed to the end of the experiment, it is a thousand to one but he owns he has lost ; for it might be so managed, by the smallness of the pieces cut, the little stick might find him employment for a fortnight.

A Trick with a Cock.

Birds, and animals, it is very well known, are possessed of wonderful faculties; and may be taught to perform wonderful things; this is evident from recent circumstances: Mr. Pinchbeck's learned dog and bird, are sufficient proofs to establish this beyond all other arguments.

Among the many things practised on, and with the feathered race, this of the cock is not the least particular.

Take a cock from roost at night, or off its walk by day, and bring him into a room full of company, keep both your hands close to his wings, and hold them tight; put him on a table, and point his beak down as strait as possible, and then let any one draw a line, with a piece of chalk, directly from its beak, and all the noise you can possibly make, with drums, trumpets, or even the crowing of other cocks, will not disturb him from the seeming lethargy which

that

that position you have laid him in, with the chalk'd line, has effected.

Strange as this is, yet the certainty of it is past a doubt, as many gentlemen, who have ere this, sported some hundreds, on the royal turf, assure the author they have tried the experiment, and declare it to be a fact.

A droll Trick played with a Fowl.

A person who was rather put to it for money, set his wits to work, how to obtain a little of that necessary commodity; he canvassed over a number of things in his mind, and at last hit upon the following expedient.

He had got a young cock, which he had brought up to do almost whatever he pleased (that is, as far as the nature of the bird would allow); it would lay down as dead, with its head tuck'd under its wing, and lie in that manner as long as he thought proper.

This cock he stripp'd all the feathers from, as they do geese in Lincolnshire, and set the cryer to work, informing the

the gentlemen, students, &c. (for it was at Cambridge) that at such an hour in the evening he would exhibit a roasted fowl, which, as soon as attempted to be cut up, should rise out of the dish, and fly away with the fork stuck in it.

Half a crown was the price for seeing this great curiosity; and to make it appear as not a mere take in, no money was to be received till after the performance.

Bills in writing were likewise distributed, and not a few attended at the inn; the scholars laughed in their sleeves; they had heard and seen the Jonas's, the Comas's, the Breslaw's, and the Katterfelto's; but this trick promised to surpass them all.

Meantime a fowl was laid down to the fire, and the cook brought into the confederacy; a large bason of egg sauce was made, and left to cool, the cloth was laid, and the guests desired to walk in; the needy contriver of the scheme was as busy as could be, entertaining the company with a multitude of extraordinary stories

to divert their attention, while he carried on the deception : at last the fowl was done, several were present at its being taken off the spit, and then hastened into the parlour; mean time another dish was ready close to the door, with the live fowl stripp'd of its feathers in it, and covered over with the cold egg sauce.

As soon as this was set upon the table (for the change was managed so cleanly, that no person perceived it) one of the students stuck in his fork, with a degree of vehemence, that made the fowl quit its supineness, ran from the dish, and fluttering its wings, bespattered the company all over with egg sauce; and actually made off with the fork, to the no small surprize and mirth of the beholders.

The man having thus fulfilled his promise, began to collect the half crowns, which tumbled in pretty plentifully; the real roasted fowl was served in with other provisions; and after supper, the evening was concluded with the utmost harmony, and much

much to the satisfaction of the wag, who was the contriver, and who filled his pockets by the experiment.

To make an Egg stand an end on a Table or on a Looking-glass.

TO divert with propriety, is no easy task, it is not sufficient that a person knows a trick, and can do it, but it requires a certain address, an easy manner in the performing of it, which renders it doubly pleasing.

To make an egg stand an end on any polished surface, seems very extraordinary, yet it is to be done, even on a *looking glass*; now from the form of an egg nothing is more liable to roll, and nothing more so than on a looking-glass; to accomplish this trick, let the performer take an egg in his hand, and while he keeps talking, and staring in the face of his audience, give it two or three hearty shakes, which will break the yolk, which will sink to one end, and consequently make it more heavy, by which, when it

it is settled, you may make it, with a steady hand, stand upon the glass, which would be impossible while it continued in its pristine state.

To put a Candle under Water, a-light, without its going out.

AS much has been said about the diving bell, this simple trick may serve, in some degree, to elucidate that contrivance; as it is certainly done on the same principle.

Take a glass, and fastening a small bit of wood across the mouth, stick thereon a bit of candle lighted, and, with a steady hand, bring the glass to the surface of the water, then push it carefully down, and you may see the candle burn under the water, and may bring it up again a-light; and in the same manner you may put a handkerchief rolled tight together, and it will not be wet.

The principal art in doing this trick, consists in the nicety of bringing the mouth of the glass exactly
even

even with the surface of the water, for if you put it the least on one side, the wet will get in, and consequently will put the candle out, or wet the handkerchief; so that a nice eye and steady hand, are absolutely necessary to this performance.

*Various Performances and Deceptions
with Cards.*

CARDS are capable of affording a deal of entertainment, besides the different games which are played with them; and indeed it must be acknowledged, the tricks played with them are more innocent than any thing else they are used for.

How many lovely ladies loose their complexions at the midnight card-table, besides the eagerness of gaming, flurries the spirits, affects the passions, and often disorders the whole frame, to the great injury of health; for though people may be regardless of their wealth, and care not what they loose, yet a certain solicitude prevails with

with every one who plays, and few there are who make it simply an amusement; therefore cards are no farther recommended than merely to create innocent mirth, which the following tricks will not a little accelerate.

For a Person to chuse a Card, you not supposed to know what it is, and then for the Person to hold the Cards between his Finger and Thumb, to strike them all out of his Hand but the very Card he had taken.

THIS is called the Nerve Trick; it is thus performed: having previously looked at a card, bid the person draw one, taking care to shew that to which you know; when he has looked at it, let him put it at the bottom; let him shuffle the cards, then you look at them again, and finding the Card, place it at the bottom; then cut them in half; give the party that part which contains his
 F chosen

chosen card at the bottom, to look between his finger and thumb just at the corner; bid him pinch them as tight as he can; then striking them pretty sharp, they will all fall to the ground but the bottom one, which is the card he had chosen.

This is a very curious trick, and if cleanly done, is really astonishing; but may be accounted for from the nature of the nerves, which are more retentive when any thing is attempted to be taken by force or surprize.

To tell what Card a Person thinks upon, though you are not in the Room, or which Card he has touched, or waved his Hand over.

TO do this trick you must lay a wager that you will tell the card the person has touched, though you do not see it: let several cards be laid out on the table, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, or any number, then turn your back, or leave the room while the person makes choice; on your return you must enquire

quire what he will lay, having your eye upon the cards laid out; if he says he will lay fix to one, or ten to one, you must take the highest number, as that will, in all probability, be the card he had fixed on; this you must seem to pause about counting the cards as they lay, and choosing the farthest off.

To tell what Card you think on in the whole Pack.

THIS trick, like the former, depends not a little on chance, as it is all guess, and yet it very seldom fails.

When a person has thought upon a card, you must say, let me see, your suit is diamonds; perhaps the other will reply, no, no, it was hearts; right, you must say, and here it is, shewing the ace; and if he says that is not it, pretend you was mistaken, and produce the king; for it is common for those who think on a card to fix on an ace, or the next high card; and this has been practised

with good success by many of our modern performers.

How to deliver out Four Aces, and to convert them to Four Knaves.

THIS trick is one among the many which is done by a quick slight; for if it is done in a bungling manner, it may easily be detected, and the pretender will be liable to be laughed at.

To do this, make a pack of eight cards, viz. four aces and four knaves, and let them be laid in this order: an ace and a knave, and so alternately through all the eight cards; then shuffle them, so as always at the second shuffling, or at least when you have done shuffling them, one of the aces may be the nethermost card; then use some words or device, and putting your hand with the cards to the edge of the table, let out privately a piece of the second card, which is one of the knaves; then shewing to the standers by the nether card, which is
one

one of the aces; be sure to cover the piece of the knave with your fingers; then draw out the same knave, laying it down on the table; then shuffle the cards as before, and you will have two aces at bottom; therefore take off the uppermost card, and thrust it into the middle of the pack; do the same with your nethermost card, which is one of the aces, then you may shew another ace as before; and instead of that lay down another knave; proceed in the same method till instead of the four aces you have laid down the four knaves.

The beholders, all the while thinking that there lay four aces on the table, are greatly deceived when they are turned up, and will wonder at the transformation.

*To tell what Card a Person pitches on,
without seeing the Card till you find
it in the Pack.*

THE many different tricks which
may be done with cards, must have

been invented by various persons, at different periods, as it cannot be supposed that one person was the inventor of all of them; this trick is done in the following manner: as you hold the cards in your hand, let any one take a card out of the pack, and look at it; then take the card from them with your eyes shut, and put it at the bottom of the pack; then shuffle the cards till you know it is come to the bottom again; then putting the cards behind you, make as though you shuffled them behind you, but let your shuffling be only this; take off the uppermost card, and put it at the bottom, reckon that two; then take off another card, and reckon that three; then take off as many as you please from the top, and put them at the bottom, counting to yourself how many you take off; then bring the cards forth, and hold them with their faces towards you; take them off one by one, privately counting the number, and smell to them, as though you found it out by your nose, till you come to the

the
ing, t
how y
Al
any p
most
well a

To

TH
practi
to per
ing m
Ha
it at
shuffl
botto
hind
nami
have
hind
face
cards
see v
the c
the t

the right card ; then produce it, saying, this is it ; and they will wonder how you found it out.

A little practice will serve to perfect any person in this trick, and indeed most of them depend on practice, as well as all other manual operations.

To call for any Card in the Pack.

THIS trick requires very little practice, or indeed understanding, to perform, and is done in the following manner.

Having privately seen a card, put it at the bottom of the pack, then shuffle the cards till it comes to the bottom again, then put the cards behind you ; and say here I call for, naming the bottom card, which you have seen ; and as you hold them behind you, turn the top card with its face upwards, then hold forth the cards, and as you hold them you may see what the next card is ; then put the cards behind you again, and take the top card, and put it at the bottom, with

with its face downwards, and turn the next card with its face upwards, and whilst you are doing this, say, here I call for; naming the card you saw last; then hold forth the cards again, shewing the bottom card, which will be that you call for; then put the cards behind you again, and proceed in the same manner as you did before; you may by this method go through them all, and call for all the cards in the pack, to the admiration of the beholders, who will be surpris'd how you could find them out when you hold them behind you.

Shuffling of Cards so as to always keep one certain Card at the Bottom.

A Person with a hard hand and stiff joints should never think of playing deception with the cards, as clumsy fingers will not do; in shewing of tricks with cards, the principal point consists in shuffling them nimbly, and yet keeping one certain card, either in the bottom or some known

known place of the pack, four or five cards from the bottom ; for by this, you may seem to work wonders ; since it is easy for you to see, or take notice of a card ; which though you are perceived to do, it will not be suspected if you shuffle them well together, afterwards, by the method here to be taught, which is this : in shuffling let the bottom card be always kept a little before, or, which is best, a little behind all the rest of the cards ; put it a little beyond the rest before, right over your fore finger, or else, which is the best, a little behind the rest, so as the little finger of the left hand may slip up, and meet with it at the first ; shuffle as thick as you can, and at last, throw upon the board the bottom card, with as many more as you would preserve for any purpose, a little before or a little behind the rest ; and be sure to let your fore finger, if the pack be laid before, or your little finger, if the pack be laid behind, always creep up to meet with the bottom card, and when you feel it, you may there hold it
till

till you have shuffled over again, which being done, the card which was first at the bottom, will come there again; thus you may shuffle them before their faces, and yet leave your noted card at the bottom; you must try to be very perfect in this method of shuffling; and having once attained it, you may do almost what you please; for whatever pack you make, though it is ten, twelve, or twenty cards, you may still keep it next the bottom, and yet shuffle them often, to please the curious.

CHAP.

Con

T
radox
cal on
the r

Th
earth
tude,
night
list of
it is
So
Nort
visibl
confe
half

Th
where

C H A P. IV.

Containing Geographical Paradoxes.

THERE is nothing more entertaining or diverting than paradoxes, and the following geographical ones must surely be acceptable to the readers.

P A R A D O X I.

There is a certain place of the earth, in a considerable northern latitude, where, though the days and nights, even when shortest, do consist of several hours, yet in that place it is noon-day every half hour.

Solution to the above: under the North Pôle, where the sun, when visible, is always seen due south; and consequently it is not only noon every half hour, but every minute.

P A R A D O X II.

There is a noted place on the earth, where the sun and the moon, even
when

when at full, may both happen to rise at the same time ; and upon the same point of the compass.

Solution. Under the North Pole, the sun and the full moon, both decreasing in south declination, may rise in the equinoxial points at the same time ; and under the North Pole, there is no other point of compass but south.

P A R A D O X I I I .

There is two remarkable places on the globe of the earth, in which there is only one day, and one night, throughout the whole year.

Solution. These places are the two poles.

P A R A D O X I V .

There is a certain island in the Levant, upon which, if two children born at the same time and living together for several years, should both die at the same time, yet the life of the one would surpass that of the other by several months.

Solution.

Solution. If one of the persons travel east, and the other west, round the globe; which may be done in a year, there will be two days difference in their account of time; and if this travelling be continued for forty years, there will be eighty days difference in their reckonings; and so many days older will he be that travelled eastward than he that travelled westward.

P A R A D O X V.

Some persons talking of the variety of business they had seen one man do, in a short time, was interrupted by a person, who said, he had seen a man who in one artificial day, could do as much business as a hundred such men as he they had been talking of.

Solution. In one of the long days, between the sun-rising and setting, in the frigid zone, as the days there are half a year long.

P A R A D O X VI.

A very great traveller asserted, that he had seen Whit-sunday fall on the

G

longest

longest day, on the shortest day, and on the day when the days and nights were equal.

Solution. In the year 1739, the sun entered the sign Cancer, on Whit-funday, being the longest day in north latitude, the shortest in south latitude, and under the equator equal day and night. Now the traveller crossing the line on that day, sees every article asserted.

P A R A D O X VII.

There is a certain place in the island of Great Britain, where the stars are always visible at any time of the day, if the horizon be not over-cast.

Solution. In a deep well, or a coal pit, the surrounding light, which the atmosphere spreads in the open air, is removed from the sight, so that if the shaft of the well, or pit, be straight, those stars near the zenith will be readily seen.

P A R A D O X VIII.

There is a certain city in the southern

southern part of China, whose inhabitants (both male and female) when walking or standing, do observe much the same posture as the Europeans, and yet they frequently appear to strangers, as if they stood or walked on their heads.

Solution. People on each side of a canal, or river of water, see the images of one another in the water, with the head downwards, and so are the people of China seen in their rivers, by the Europeans from their ships.

P A R A D O X IX.

There is a certain city, whose buildings being generally of firm stone, are for the most part of a prodigious height, and exceedingly strong, and yet it is most certain, that the walls of not one house in the whole city are parallel to one another, nor perpendicular to the plane on which the middle of the house stands.

Solution. All walls are endeavoured to be built perpendicular to the level of the spot they stand upon; in

a line directed towards the center of the earth: consequently two such walls are not equal or parallel; and geometry shews, that no other line drawn perpendicular to a tangent, beside that at the point of contact, is directed towards the center.

PARADOX X.

There is a remarkable river, on the continent of Europe, over which there is a bridge, of such a breadth, that above three thousand men may pass along abreast, and that without crowding one another in the least.

Solution. There are rivers which, in some part of their course, run under ground for a considerable way, of two, or three miles, which is breadth sufficient for three thousand men to walk a-breast of one another; allowing there were more than three feet space for each man to walk on.

C H A P. V.

*Dreams and their Interpretations, the
Belief in Dreams established from
Holy Writ, &c.*

FROM the earliest accounts of past ages, mention is made of dreams, and they were looked upon as divine informations, signs, and warnings, not a few of these are mentioned in holy writ.

The inspired writers have thought proper to display their consequence by various ways; the dream of that heathen tyrant Nebuchadnezzar, was interpreted by Daniel, and according to that interpretation was fulfilled.

The dream of Pharaoh was not less remarkable, and the interpretation of Joseph was likewise accomplished.

Besides, there are many other instances in ancient record, which plainly evinces, that dreams convey a kind of fore knowledge of what will come to pass some time or other; and as there is hardly a person but

feels, at some period, this strange phantacy of the night, a collection of interpretations may not be disagreeable.

Two circumstances I shall mention, the one of them is as follows. A labouring man in the country dreamed, that if he came to London, and sat upon a particular part of London bridge, he should hear of something which would entirely banish his poverty, and fix him above labour and want for the remainder part of his life; this dream he had successively for several nights together, which made so strong an impression on his mind, that he determined to go directly to London, and take his station on the bridge, as he was directed in his vision.

This he actually did, and sat from morning, to night, for several days together. When a person taking notice of him, as he passed along, took the liberty to seat himself by his side, and ask the reason of his continually keeping that station, when the countryman told him his dream;

dream; a parcel of nonsense, replied the man; " why I dreamed last night, " that close to a great tree in a " field, in such a part of the country, " that there was a great deal of " money buried; but I should be " a very great fool was I to go above " a hundred miles on account of " such a dream."

" True, said the countryman," " and I think I will wait no longer."

By what the gentleman said, and the description he gave of the place, he was convinced it was close to his own cottage; and on his return, on digging near to the supposed tree, absolutely discovered a vast treasure; which made him and his family happy for ever after.

Another is, that two men travelling together, they were overtaken by a terrible storm of thunder, and lightning, with violent rain, so that they thought it best to take shelter at a public house, and go no farther that night; having supped, and retired to bed, no sooner was one of them asleep than he dreamed his house

house was on fire, and his wife and family in great danger; troubled at his dream, he awaked, and communicated it to his companion, who bid him not mind it, and try to sleep again; which he did, and had the same dream again; and so a third time, when he determined to get up and go home with all speed, which he did with his companion; when coming to the house, he found the door open, and on entering, two villains were forcing into his wife's chamber, with a dark lantern, and a pistol, which they by good fortune secured; so that by this dream, he saved his property, and very likely the life of his wife; therefore dreams are not to be disregarded.

If a young woman dreams she is walking in pleasant groves, or gardens, she may be certain of marrying the man she loves; but if she dreams the trees and flowers are covered with snow, she will be crossed in love.

If a young man, or woman, dreams of bad fruit, it is a sign their sweet-hearts are false hearted.

To dream of running streams of water, denotes you will shed many tears.

For a maid to dream a young man gives her a glass of clear water to drink, shews she will have an offer of being well married; and it is the same, if a young man dreams of it.

To dream you see clear water running by your bed side, denotes you will gain some benefit from a relation or friend.

To dream a raven lights upon your head, it is a sign of death to the dreamer.

To dream you hear a magpye chatter, denotes quarrels and debates.

To dream of a parrot, is a sign some gossip will bely you.

To dream of the winds blowing, and shifting about, shews you will often change your mind.

To dream of sailing in a boat, on a clear river, is a sign of love.

For a man to dream he falls into the water, of some great torrent, is a sign he will fall in love with
a mar-

a married woman, which will occasion him much uneasiness.

For a maid- to dream a young man puts a gold ring on her finger, is a sure sign of marriage; and the same if he ties on her garter.

To dream the air is serene, and sky blue, but afterwards to be overclouded, and the winds boisterous, denotes you will be happy when you are first married; but after through poverty and quarreling, you will lead a very unhappy life.

To dream you see an eagle take its flight, it is a sign of prosperity and advancement.

To dream you are in presence of a lion; it is a sign of honour; and if it fauns upon you, it betokens you will be in favour with some great personage.

To dream you see a lamb killed, is a sign of grief.

To dream you see a couple of milk white doves or pidgeons, come to your chamber window, is a sign of speedy marriage,

To

To dream you see a bear, signifies a powerful and dangerous enemy.

To dream of an ape, or monkey, shews you will receive some injury from a cunning mischievous person.

If you dream you are writing a letter, and that you write a very fine hand, is not good; but if you dream you blot, or tear your paper, you will have success.

If a married woman dreams she heard the cuckoo sing, signifies some man will endeavour to seduce her from her husband.

To dream you see your face in a glass, betokens love.

For a person to dream they see their own back, denotes poverty.

If you dream your shoes and stockings are worn out, and your feet are dirty, it is a sign of sickness.

If one dreams of seeing a great deal of milk, it sheweth plenty, as it does likewise to dream of corn.

If a young man dreams he rides on a white horse, (which is his own) he will very soon be married to a beautiful young lady, and if a young woman

woman dreams it, she will speedily have a handsome rich husband.

To dream you have white gloves on your hands, denotes much honour.

To dream it rains, denotes getting of riches.

If any one dreams they are cloathed in rich silks and lace, it betokens advancement.

To dream you pick your ears, is a sign you will hear some news.

To dream you see a hen and chickens, is a sign you will have many children, and have a deal of care upon you to bring them up.

If any one dreams they have got a hamper of eggs, it signifies profit and gain; but if they are broken, it is a sign of loss in trade.

To dream your teeth drop out, sheweth the death of relations; and if you dream one of your teeth is longer and more troublesome than the rest, it denotes strife and contention among your nearest kin.

If a man dreams he has lost his left eye, he will lose his wife; and if
the

the woman dreams she has lost her right eye, she will lose her husband.

If a person dreams their mouth is grown wider and bigger than common, it is a sure sign they will grow rich, and keep a great house.

To dream a lighted candle stands in your chamber, or a clear fire is burning, is a sign of great love and desire; and if you dream you see any part of the house on fire, with a great smoke and crackling, it denotes anger, or hasty news.

For one to dream they are dead and buried, denotes great riches, and the more earth was thrown on you, the more money you will get.

To dream a bird flies into your hands, is a sign of a present.

If any one dreams of finding gold, they may be sure of meeting with a disappointment.

To dream a dog follows you, betokens a true friend.

To dream you run, signifies disgrace; and if a sick person dreams he runs, it is a sign of death.

H

To

To dream your sweetheart shews you fine pictures, shews he is deceitful.

To dream you drink hot liquor with any one, signifies wrangling.

To dream you are drunk, denotes sickness.

To dream you have a fine fresh colour, is a sign of health and contentment; and to dream you are pale and thin, denotes grief and affliction.

To dream your toes and fingers are strong, betokens many friends to help you.

To dream the sun is eclipsed, you will fall from high fortune.

To see the moon at the full, shews you will have a handsome daughter.

If any one dreams he goes a fishing, it is a sign of undergoing much labour and toil in his business; but to dream one makes you a present of fish, is very good.

To dream you find a parcel of nuts, shews you will by some means get a great deal of money.

great

To dream you hear the ringing of bells, denotes joy.

To dream of music and singing, signifies grief, especially if you dream you sing well.

To dream you hear drums beat, is a sign you will be alarmed at something.

To dream you see people a cooking, and preparing for a feast, is a sign there is a match making up for you, by your friends.

To dream of a heated oven, or of hot bread, denotes you will change your place.

To dream of shaking hands with any one, is a sign of friendship.

If any one dreams he talks with an enemy, he must take care of him.

For one woman to dream she salutes another, is a sign of deceit.

If one dreams of eating ripe oranges, it is a sign of wounds and bruises.

To dream of eating ripe cherries, shews the party is in love, and is beloved again.

To dream of seeing a rainbow, signifies your love will change.

If a young woman dreams of seeing faded roses, she stands a chance to die an old maid.

To dream of gathering flowers, denotes a short lived happiness.

To hear birds sing, denotes pleasure.

To taste sweet things, signifies flattery.

To dream of a great storm of hail, signifies hindrance and obstruction in your affairs.

To dream you see a horse or hare run swift, denotes expedition in business.

If a woman dreams she sees a naked man, it shews great dread and fear.

To dream of being stung by a wasp, signifies some spiteful person will hurt your character.

To dream of a swallow, or any bird of passage, signifies voyages by sea.

To dream you hear a nightingale sing, foretells melancholy.

C H A P. VI.

Electricity. Strange Tricks performed by Electricity.

AMONG the wonderful discoveries of human nature, there is hardly any that rank higher than electricity.

This phenomenon like many others was found out merely by accident; yet has proved not only a source for various experiments, but likewise extremely beneficial to mankind.

The great Dr. Franklin has improved more in this branch of knowledge than any other person; he even contrived to bring lightning from the clouds by means of conductors; these conductors are of great service, when fixed to churches, and other public edifices, to preserve them from the dreadful effects of the rapidness of elemental fire.

When electricity is made use of

H 3

phy=

physically it is of great utility, and has been known to relieve, and sometimes entirely cure various disorders; it is extremely serviceable in the rheumatism, and other chronic disorders.

One circumstance I shall mention, which I received from a gentleman who has been dead some years, but whose character as an artist, and an ingenious person, will be a long time remembered. I mean Mr. Benjamin Rackstrow, of Fleet street.

He told me, that having some company one day, to see his museum, and his electrical experiments, they were rather fearful of undergoing the shock; when a person who was much given to drink, being in the room, and rather half-seas over, as the saying is, voluntarily offered to let the experiment be tried on him; and he received it pretty smartly three or four times, and never thought any more about it for the present; a few days afterwards, he had occasion to go to Chichester, in Sussex, and being rather low in circumstances, was obliged to walk.

This

This man had been afflicted for many years with a rupture, which was extremely troublesome, but on this journey he had not the least symptoms of it; on which he wrote a letter to Mr. Rackstrow, informing him of this agreeable circumstance, and imputing it entirely to his receiving the shocks from his electrical apparatus; the man lived to confirm this by word of mouth; and what is really extraordinary the rupture never returned: this is sufficient to establish its physical consequence, yet it is of farther service in palsies, and contractions; which is performed by sparks, drawn by friction from the machine.

Its real use being thus established, it may now, without offending, be a little merry with other circumstances, which have and may happen again, by the means of electricity.

Some ladies and gentlemen coming to Mr. Rackstrow's, brought with them a *negro* servant, who had not been long in England; after they had seen his natural and artificial curiosities, they desired to see some
of

of his electrical experiments, and gave him a hint to play a trick or two with poor Mungo ; Mungo was not a little surpris'd at the shocks he received, but could not guess from whence they came ; but when the room was darkened, and fire was made to come out of his fingers ends, he roared out like a mad bull, crying, the devil, the devil ! and in endeavouring to get out of the room, over-set the skeleton of a *Rhinoceros*, run his head against a case full of butterflies, and broke all to pieces a fine bust of the Marquis of Granby ; and having once more gained day-light, made a sudden spring into the street, and run immediately home, to the no small diversion of his master and family.

Mrs. Bulky being troubled with a tympany, was recommended to be electrified ; she went to a professor in that way, who asked her if she could bear a pretty hard shock ? O yes, Sir, said she, as hard as you please, and as often as you please, I am very fond of being *shocked* ; the man, by this, supposed she had before under-

undergone the operation, and was not sparing to give her, what she seemed so well to understand; but alas! he wound up his instrument too high: so that he not only overset his patient, but actually conveyed her quite over the way, and tumbled her into a cellar, where they sold ox-check, and peas-soup; down went the steaming-pan full of savory broth; off flew her monument of a cap into the other boiling cauldron, which instantly made a bag to hold peas in.

The cook reddened like a heated poker, the customers rose from their seats, and confusion took place in this subterraneous abode.

All culinary business was at an end for the present; the electrical doctor came running to the assistance of his patient; but as soon as the cause of the disaster was explained, the occupier of the place declared the damages should be made good; her pan of leg of beef was entirely lost; her peas-soup spoiled by the powder and pomatum of the lady's head-dress; the doctor was the cause of all, and he

he should pay for all ; but he declared he would, sooner than pay a farthing, electrify the house till it fell about their ears.

At last the lady, however, having adjusted herself in the best manner she could, gave the good woman a crown, and so compromised the matter ; however it cured her of her tympany, for she never went to the doctor afterwards.

Many are the tricks which are played by the means of an electrifying machine ; a person in the city had one in his shop, which was not seen by the passers by ; he hung at the door an old stilliard, which, from its make, seemed to be very ancient ; this attracted the notice of many, who no sooner went to examine it, than they received the shock ; those who knew what it was, only smiled, and went on ; but others stared as wild as a half-hanged cat, and could not guess from whence it came.

A drunken porter being called one day, and asked what he would have to carry the stilliard to a certain place, went

went to examine it, as he thought it too trifling to carry alone, he no sooner touched it than he felt a blow; and turning round, with an oath, declared, if he knew who it was, he would pay them well for their impudence; he then returned to speak about his jobb, and received another shock, and another after that, till irritated by the supposed assaults, given by he could not tell who, he stripped in buff to fight all that came in his way, till he got a mob of boys and dogs at his heels, and was glad to get away at any rate. Such tricks are not recommended as proper to be practised, for they are really dangerous; a strange person might, on finding the truth, break the windows, or keep it in his mind, and do the electrifying gentleman an injury, which might make him repent of his experiments.

Small electrical machines are often introduced in company, and create not only mirth, but produce real rational amusement; such can never be disagreeable, but must give satisfaction

tion to all who have any idea of philosophical knowledge, and wish to improve their minds by mathematical experiments ; to all such I may safely recommend the electrical apparatus, which will be both useful and profitable.

How to terrify such as are entirely unacquainted with the Nature of Phosphorus.

PHOSPHORUS is a chemical preparation from human excrement; and is, in fact, a perpetual fire ; its uses are many, and have been explained by most of the greatest philosophers ; it must be continually kept in water, or it will consume itself ; it is a very dear commodity, and therefore few can afford to play tricks with it, yet they are to be done in a very terrifying manner.

If you would frighten a person who is ignorant of the means you make use of, take Phosphorus and write upon a wall or some place you
know

know the party will pass in the dark, the words may be just what you please, so that it be applicable to the person you intend to fright ; yet I advise all profane words to be avoided, though they have been commonly made use of : you may likewise draw strange pictures of dragons, or devils, with words coming out of their mouths, with phosphorus, which, in the dark will appear all on fire, and have a most frightful appearance, and strike wonder into the beholders ; yet this is a dangerous sort of diversion, as weak minds may be terrified into fits, or perhaps be deprived of their senses for ever, as thinking it to be the work of some diabolical agent ; yet I have heard of a very profane wretch, who on seeing something of this kind, reflecting on his wickedness, and not knowing how it was done, became very good, left off his former vicious course of life, and performed the duties of a worthy member of society. So far the trick was to be applauded, yet the success of it could not be known till it was tried.

I

Phos-

Phosphorus, though dangerous in unskilful hands, may be converted to various useful purposes ; it may serve in the night, to procure on any emergency a light, much sooner than with flint and steel, as it will fire a match immediately ; these, and many other uses, are what render it valuable, notwithstanding, as a curiosity, it has hardly its equal.

Having gone through most of such things which are esteemed rare, in chemistry, geography, anatomy, and the mathematics, I shall now proceed to other matters, perhaps not so curious, yet equally entertaining ; which however must serve for a separate chapter, as it will be quite a different matter from this.

CHAP.

C H A P. VII.

The Art of Fortune-telling by Cards.

TAKE a pack of cards, and making yourself which queen you please, lay them out on a table, nine of a row, and wherever you find yourself placed, count nine cards every way, making yourself one, and then you will see what card you tell to, and whatever that is, will happen to you. If the two red tens are by you, it is a sign of marriage, the ace of diamonds, is a ring; the ace of hearts, is your house, the ace of clubs is a letter, the ace of spades is death, spite or quarrelling; for that is the worst card in the pack; the ten of diamonds is a journey, the three of hearts is a kiss, the three of spades is tears, the ten of spades is sickness, the nine of spades a disappointment; the nine of clubs a merry-making; the nine of hearts feasting, the ten of clubs going by water, the ten of hearts, some

place of amusement, the five of hearts a present, the five of clubs a bundle, the six of spades a child, the seven of spades a removal, the three of clubs fighting; the eight of clubs confusion; the eight of spades a roadway; the four of clubs a strange bed; the nine of diamonds business; the five of diamonds a settlement; the five of spades a surprise; the two red eights, new cloaths; the three of diamonds speaking with a friend; the four of spades a sick bed; the seven of clubs a prison; the two of spades a false friend; the four of hearts a marriage bed; when several diamonds come together, it is a sign of money; several hearts, love; several clubs, drink; and several spades, vexation.

If a married woman lays the cards, she must make her husband the king of the same suit she is queen of; but if a single woman tries it, she may make her sweetheart what king she likes; the knaves of the same suit are the mens thoughts; so that you may know what they are thinking of, by
telling

(101)

telling nine cards from where they are placed, making them one ; and if any one chuses to try if she shall have her wish, let her shuffle the cards well (as she must likewise when she tells her fortune) wishing all the time for some one thing, she must then cut them once, and minding what card she cuts, shuffle them again, and then deal them out into three parcels, which done, look over every parcel, and if the card you cut, comes next yourself, or next the ace of hearts, you will have your wish ; but if the nine of spades is next, you will not, for that is a disappointment ; however, you may try it three times.

This method of telling fortunes is innocent, and much better than for a young woman to tell her secrets to a fortune-teller, who can inform her no better, if she pays her a shilling for it.

Palmistry displayed, or the Art of telling Fortunes by Lines in the Hands.

IF the lines which are in the middle of the hand, (which is called the table lines) are broad, and fair, without being broken, it is a sign the party will lead a happy, comfortable life.

If the line from the wrist goes straight up to the little finger, the person will live to a great old age; but if the line is broken, they are in danger of sudden death, for that is called the line of death; if the line of life, (which is that which runs from the wrist, by the ball of the thumb, and ends under the fore finger is clear, and without breaks, it shews riches, prosperity and old age; round lines, like circles on the inside of the tips of the fingers, promise houses, land, and inheritance. As many lines or crosses, as a woman has
in

in her wrist, so many children she may expect to have.

If the middle or table lines, in the hand, are very narrow, and contracted, it is a sign of poverty, and great misfortunes in the world.

And if a crooked line runs through the table line, it is a sign of death by accident, or violence; but if it runs strait, and even through, it is a good sign.

When a person frowns, so many wrinkles as they have between their eyes on the top of the nose, shews as many husbands and wives.

*Of Moles in every Part of the Body,
and the Explanation of them.*

A MOLE on the forehead, if in a woman, denotes barrenness, understanding, and a good temper; but indicates some part of her life has been mis-spent, and thrown away on an effeminate and worthless being.

A mole on the nose, shews a man is addicted to women.

A mole on the cheek, shews the party is much beloved.

A mole on the lip, shews a woman will marry very young.

A mole on the chin denotes many misfortunes.

A mole on the breast, betokens a woman to have a great many admirers.

A mole under the ear, betokens the party in danger of being hanged.

A mole in the neck, shews plenty.

A mole

A mole on the throat, denotes a good heart, a lovely person, sweet temper, and one who generally speaks truth.

A mole on the belly, the person is in danger of being drowned.

A mole on the side, betokens a drunken person.

A mole on the hip, shews strength.

A mole in the groin, shews a woman in danger by child-birth.

A mole on the leg, shews a person must work hard for a living.

A mole on the right arm, shews getting money by industry.

And a mole on the left, signifies riches by marriage.

A mole on the ankle, shews crossing the sea.

A mole on the heel, shews travelling by land.

C H A P. VIII.

Diverting Tricks, &c.

*To make one tumble and toss all Night,
and not be able to sleep.*

IF a fellow servant is ill-natured, and given to tell tales, and make mischief, make use of this trick; get some roach allum, and pound it very small, and sprinkle it in his or her bed; or else a little cow itch, or cut horse-hair, they will answer the same purpose, and it will cause the person to be so restless, they will not be able to close their eyes.

*A merry Trick to make Sport in
Company.*

TAKE salt petre one ounce, cream of tartar one ounce, sulphur half an ounce, beat them to powder singly, then mix them together, and put the powder in a paper in your pocket; you may then at any time you please,

con-

convey a grain into a pipe of tobacco, and when it takes fire, it will give the report of a musket, but not break the pipe; or you may put as much as will lay upon your nail in any place, upon little bits of paper, and setting fire to it, there will be the report of so many great guns, but do no harm at all.

*To make a Pea dance upon the End of
a Piece of Tobacco Pipe.*

TAKE a piece of tobacco pipe and break it off square at the end, and with a nail work the hole a little bigger, so that it may be a little hollow that the pea may lie the faster on; then lay the pea on it, holding it upright; hold your head a little back, and setting the other end of the pipe to your mouth, blow gently, and the pea will dance upon the end of the pipe, leaping up to a considerable height, very pleasant to behold; sometimes the pea will leap up three or four inches: some will wet the
pea

pea in their mouth before they lay it on; but that does no good, for the pea dances as well dry. All the art in this trick consists in chusing a pea quite round, for that does better than a flat one; and to have the pipe broke off as square at the end as possible, and the hole in it to be directly in the middle, and be made hollow; and when you have raised the pea to a considerable height you must not slack your breath suddenly; for if you do, the pea will fall down so hard that it will run away; but you must slack your breath by degrees, till you have let the pea sink down in the hole, and then you may increase your breath again, and raise it up as before: this trick is diverting, though simple, and when practised a little, will soon be learned.

C H A P.

C H A P. IX.

*Comical Stories, Puns, Jokes, and
Repartees.*

A Dumb beggar, travelling the country, with a long account fastened to his breast, setting forth that he had been taken by a Barbary corsair, been a slave in the gallies; and, lastly, had his tongue cut out in Turkey; from whence, at last, with much difficulty, he made his escape to Europe; and coming to England, all his friends being dead, he had no means to get a livelihood but the generous donations of tender-hearted Christians.

This mendicant stopped about noon at a shoe-maker's shop, the master of which gave him a penny, and made signs to him to come in and sit down, (for he pretended to be deaf as well as dumb) which he did; the master then going into another room to dinner, left him in the shop with the apprentice.

K

As

As soon as the master's back was turned, Mr. Dummy got up, and placing himself just before the boy, leaned out of the window to survey those who passed by: the boy could not see to do his work he stood so in his light; to speak to him he knew was vain, as he thought he could not hear; however, imagining he had not lost the sense of feeling, the boy stooped down, and ran the awl into his leg; as soon as the dumb man felt the smart, he clapped his hand to the wound, and began to swear with a most audible voice.

The boy, hearing this, ran with all speed to the other room, crying, "Master, master, behold a miracle!" "I have done more than all the doctors in the world could do; I have fetched the man's tongue out of Turkey, and put it in his head again."

The shoemaker, who generously intended to have given him a dinner, finding he was an impostor, changed his mind, and well lathered his back with stirrup oil, with which he was obliged to be contented. In

In order that the following story may be generally understood, it may be necessary to mention, that in Scotland, the church is called kirk.

According to the custom of their kirk they have particular days, which they term examining days, (as they do not make use of the word catechise) this is for the edification of young people, who go some miles to kirk on those days.

One day, when Moggy was making black puddings, she was called on by Peggy, who asked her if she would gang to kirk; Troth, says Moggy, I canna, for Ise making of puddens; ne'er heed that, lassie, replied Peggy, this is examining day, fae leave the cramming of the guts till another day, and come along.

Moggy was prevailed on to go; but as it was a good way, for fear she should famish, she put one of the puddings in her bosom: but to be as concise as possible; the young people, were all standing on a row, in the aisle of the kirk, when the parson began his examination.

Parson. Moggy d'ye ken wha made ye?

Moggy. Troth, not I.

Parson. Ah! fie Mogg, there is yon wie Collin (a little boy) will tell me directly; wha made ye boy? God.

Parson. There Moggy, are ye not ashamed of your sel.

Moggy. Troth, not I, he was made t'other day, and easily remembers; but I have been made a great while, and have forgot.

Parson. Ah! Moggy, don ye ken who brought you out of the land of Egypt?

Moggy. Whoo't away, mon, who's been telling you sic a pack o'lies, I ne'er was there in all my life time.

Parson. Fie Moggy, do ye not ken wha died for ye?

Moggy. Troth, not I, Wooly Wilson, did say he would tie the lovers loop, I dinna ken he was sic a fou.

Parson. Ah! Moggy, Moggy, you'll ne'er do any gued till you pull that lump of corruption out of your bosom.

Moggy,

Moggy, who till now had not once thought of the black pudding, supposing the parson meant that, immediately pulled it out and smacked it in his face, saying, here, tack it, and the muckle dee'l do you gued on't, but 'tis a hard case a poor girl canna have a pudding in her bosom, but every hungry parson must be wanting of it.

A N O T H E R.

A young Highlander just arrived in London, and making the best of his way to deliver his credentials to laird Boot, saw an old sow scrubbing herself against a post, in great rage drew his waniard, and run it into her guts; crying na national reflections, ye deel's own child.

As many things in this book have been introduced to amuse and entertain, and fortune-telling, by various ways, to divert the fair sex, more particularly, it is imagined, the following whimsical address of *Nancy Hard to Please* will not be disagreeable

ble to that part of the sex who are
fond of innocent variety.

Address of Miss Nancy Hard to Please.

I do not like a man that's tall,
A man's that's little, is worse than all ;
I much abhor a man that's fat,
A man that's lean, is worse than that,
A young man is a constant pest,
An old one wou'd my room infest;
Nor do I like a man that's fair,
A man that's black, I cannot bear,
A man of sense, I cou'd not rule,
And from my heart, I hate a fool ;
A sober man I will not take ;
A drunken man, my heart will break:
All these I do sincerely hate,
And yet I love the marriage state.

In medio concistit, virtus.

From the above recited little piece,
which abounds with wit, and de-
licate sentiment, an answer might be
expected ; therefore a gentleman of a
turn of mind, and happy talents, im-
mediately made the ensuing reply :

Thou lovely nymph, I doubt not of thy charms,
Read my description, come into my arms,
I am not tall or low, or fat or lean,
Kind Providence has placed me just between

Ner

Nor young, nor old ; nor black my skin, nor fair,
 But still the middle of these aspects bear.
 No wise or foolish things in me are seen,
 But all my actions, still, are found between ;
 Sailor nor soldier I, no blood I spill,
 I wear a sword, but such as cannot kill;
 Nor drunk, nor sober, yet a jug and wife
 Are all I ask, or covet in this life ;
 In short, there is no extremes to me belong,
 But middle, middle, is my constant song.
 Hence, charming maid, if middle be your plan,
 Come forth, receive me, here you'll find your man.

R I D D L E S.

R I D D L E I.

TWO sides I have, one tender
 wing,

Some other trivial parts,
 But neither face, or arms or neck,
 Yet often conquer hearts.

For colour like the circling bow,
 I any fort appear ;
 And what in foreign climes is done
 I can exhibit here.

Some-

Sometimes the rising sun I show,
 That gilds the Eastern hills,
 The feeding flocks, the piping swains,
 The brooks and purling rills.

At others, represent the sea,
 Where boisterous billows roll,
 And often shew the cunning wag,
 That pockets all the coal.

But you from each indecent sight,
 Ye fair I can exclude,
 And hide the virtuous glowing cheek,
 Which sounds create, too rude.

For this at first I was design'd,
 But so with me it fairs,
 That now I'm oftner much employ'd
 To grace coquetish airs.

The artful belle, to express her scorn,
 Has readily the knack,
 When powder'd fops would demme,
 say,
 To grace one with a crack.

R I D D L E II.

I'M seen of different shapes and form,
 In frost and snow I can you warm,
 My colour is a glossy black,
 I'm often carried in a sack.

Then straight to prison I am sent,
 When seen through bars I give
 content,

Then songs of mirth and joy go
 round,

Without me no feast can be found.

My goaler next to do his part,
 Does split and crack me to the heart,
 All this I bear without a groan,
 When dead I'm on a dunghill thrown.

R I D D L E III.

MY race of life is quickly run,
 I seldom see the rising sun;
 But while I live I give more light,
 Than Luna's beam that shines so
 bright.

I have

I have no legs to walk or stand,
 Therefore am carried by command,
 I'm tall and strait, and cloath'd in
 white,
 My chiefest use is in the night.

R I D D L E IV.

I'm made of metal smooth and round,
 Thro' me has happiness been found.
 For joy and comfort I impart,
 To females struck with Cupid's dart.
 Many have pin'd for me in vain,
 And spent their days in tears and pain,
 Though I in bondage do them tie,
 Which never ends till they do die.

R I D D L E V.

There is a thing been seen to fly,
 Yet without wings, amazing high!
 It has no body, life, or soul,
 Yet little subject to controul;
 Of late, this made most people stare
 To see it swimming in the air:

Yet

Ye
It
Th
Th

Th

Ye
Th

An
In

An
Th

'Ti

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.

Yet if 'tis rightly understood,
 It neither can do harm or good ;
 The French, the invention of it claim,
 Then, pr'ythee, tell me what's its
 name.

R I D D L E VI.

The learned world, still my assistance
 claim,
 Yet I as oft direct the lover's flame,
 The merchant finds me useful in his
 way, (play ;
 And with the lawyer oft I come in
 In good and bad, alike I am employ'd,
 And fewestates without me are enjoy'd;
 Though from a simple bird, at first
 I came, (their name.
 'Tis I must give the great and good

E X P L A N A T I O N.

1. A Painted Fan.
2. A Coal.
3. A Candle.
4. A Wedding-ring.
5. An Air Balloon.
6. A Pen.

Ssn-

Sentiments and Toasts.

MAY insolence travel the road to
ridicule, and ignorance stand me-
lancholy as a mile stone.

May the king never lose his dig-
nity, nor the subject his liberty.

May the man that deceives his
friend, be ever in the power of his
enemy.

May the man that serves his friend,
never want a friend.

May genius never want a patron,
nor honesty a friend.

Epigram.

As Chloe with affected air
Sat lolling in her easy chair,
An amorous wasp who round her flew
Perched on her lip, and sipt the dew,
She frowns, she frets, he makes reply
With love, I burn, I rage, I die.
She smiles, forgives, he claps his
wings;
But soon she finds that wasps have
stings.

F I N I S.

S
S
w
y,
ly
is
ve